

Elizabeth Ministry



*Following the example of Mary and Elizabeth,
we visit and share the sacredness of all life.*

*St. Mary's Visitation Parish
1260 Church Street
Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-4575*

What is Elizabeth Ministry?

The foundation of the Elizabeth Ministry is based on the scriptural story of The Visitation. The beauty of Mary's meeting with Elizabeth was that both women realized that there was someone who understood and could share in the miracle of what God was doing for them. The purpose of this ministry is to affirm, assist, encourage and support women and their families in response to their needs during the childbearing years. Prayer is at the heart of this mission.

Why is Elizabeth Ministry needed?

In the past the support needed during childbearing years was often found in the structure of family, friends, neighborhoods and church. Because of our mobile society, many women often feel alone and isolated. Mothers, sisters and friends are often seen only on special occasions. However, the wisdom of sharing personal stories with other women who have similar experiences is still needed. Reassurance and advice, usually given by extended family, often now needs to come from another source. The search to fill this need has resulted in Elizabeth Ministry. By sharing stories and experiences, women serve one another in an atmosphere of faith, hope and love.

What are the benefits of Elizabeth Ministry?

Give encouragement and reassurance to women who are pregnant or are caring for healthy or ill newborns; Offer support to women or couples dealing with infertility issues or a childless lifestyle; Reach out to women or couples who have experienced a miscarriage or death of a child; Respond at times of infant or child crisis; Support parents involved in the adoption process; Empower women to relate to each other, pray for each other and share their faith in a personal way.

How does Elizabeth Ministry work?

Elizabeth Ministers are volunteer representatives of the faith community. They are not counselors, but are present to offer peer support, mentoring and friendship.

Elizabeth Ministers are matched with women they are to visit according to their areas of shared experience.

Women become mentors for one another. The confidential sharing of the life experiences brings a caring commitment and a sense of connectedness.

Elizabeth Ministry offers prayers, support, compassion and hope through personal visits, cards, comfort bags, phone calls and emails. Visits occur at mutually agreed upon locations such as home, church, hospitals, coffee shops, etc.

The Rosebud Bouquet Program

The Rosebud Bouquet Program helps our parish identify, pray for, and support women and their families. The Rosebud Bouquet is located at the Elizabeth Ministry table in the Atrium.

Silk rosebuds are placed in the basket. Each rosebud has an appropriate tag attached with a ribbon. People are invited to remove a rosebud from the basket, fill in the attached tag and put the rose in the vase. The various rosebud colors represent a particular situation. Pink: Honoring Pregnancy and Unborn Babies. Red: Celebrating Births and Adoptions. White: Grieving With Families Suffering a Miscarriage, Abortion, Stillbirth, Infant or Child Death. Yellow: Remembering Those Wanting To Conceive or Adopt. Parish members pray daily for families represented by the rosebuds.

Elizabeth Ministry Prayer

Creator God, I pledge to truly celebrate the gift of each child conceived and born, and fully mourn each miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth and infant or child death.

I will be a witness to my belief in the dignity and worth of all life, by honoring sexuality, treasuring the gift of fertility, promoting chaste living, uplifting the sanctity of marriage, helping those struggling with sexual sins, supporting those suffering infertility problems, assisting those in the adoption process, encouraging those with prenatal, infant or child crisis, illness or special need.

I will be a strong and consistent voice for life in my home, my church, my community and my world. Amen.

To receive the assistance of the Elizabeth Ministry, please contact:

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